



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

REGION 4  
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

**JUL 27 2009**

Mr. Ron Hull  
Central Appalachia Mining, LLC  
265 Hambley Boulevard  
Pikeville, Kentucky 41501

Dear Mr. Hull:

This letter is a follow-up to our previous letter dated June 12, 2009, concerning the proposed Big Branch coal mine project (DA # 2004-1400; KDMRE # 898-0792) in Pike County, Kentucky. The previous correspondence notified Central Appalachia Mining (CAM) of a 20-day extension beyond July 6, 2009, to allow the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) time to balance its regulatory responsibility with the need to fully consider the findings of our site visit on June 2-3, 2009. You have previously indicated that CAM is willing to meet with EPA, provide additional information, and discuss possible corrective actions that the company believes will address EPA's concerns regarding the potential for unacceptable adverse effects to aquatic resources arising from the proposed project.

EPA is continuing to analyze information about the project, compile final reports from our site visit, and conduct quality assurance reviews of the information collected. We will complete our analysis and provide the results of our findings to you no later than August 14th. We would also like to set up a meeting, here in Atlanta, no later than August 21, 2009, to discuss the findings with you.

We appreciate your cooperation during this process and look forward to the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our findings and concerns. If you should have any questions, please contact Tom Welborn, EPA Region 4 Branch Chief of the Wetlands, Coastal, and Ocean Branch, at (404) 562-9354.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Stanley Meiburg", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

A. Stanley Meiburg  
Acting Regional Administrator

cc: Colonel Dana R. Hurst, District Engineer  
Huntington District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Huntington, West Virginia 25701-2070